

## REMARKS

### A. Background

Claims 1-59 were pending in the application. Claims 1-13, and 24-59 were allowed. Claims 14, 16 & 19 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Johnson 5,090,709. Claims 14-23 were rejected as being indefinite for failing to distinctly point out and claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention. Claims 15, 17, 18 & 20-23 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The oath or declaration was considered defective. By this response, applicant has provided a new oath or declaration in compliance with 37 CFR 1.67(a); amended claims 14, & 18 to clarify the indefiniteness rejections as suggested by the Examiner; added new claims 60-67; and canceled claim 15. As such, claims 14, 16-23, & 60-67 are presented for the Examiner's consideration in light of the following remarks.

### B. Proposed Amendments

Claims 14 & 18 were amended to clarify the indefinite rejections. Claim 15 was canceled. Objected claims 15, 17, 18 & 20-23 were rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. New dependent claims 66 & 67 were written to depend from allowed claim 36. The indefinite rejection regarding claim 18 was also corrected where claim 18 was combined with the limitations of base claim 14 and corresponding intervening claims, as per the rewriting of objected claims 15, 17, 18 & 20-23 for allowability.

Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments and new claims do not introduce new matter and entry thereof is respectfully requested.

C. Rejections on the Merits

Claims 14, 16 & 19 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Johnson 5,090,709. Claims 14-23 were rejected as being indefinite for failing to distinctly point out and claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention. Claims 15, 17, 18 & 20-23 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 14 was amended to add fixed blade between "said" and "cutting edge" to clarify the indefiniteness rejection thereof. Claim 14 was further amended to incorporate the limitations of dependent claim 15 since the office action considered such combination allowable "Claims 15, 17, 18 & 20-23 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims." page 3, second paragraph from the bottom, of the office action. As such, applicant respectfully submits that amended claim 14 is allowable for at least such reasons. Dependent claim 15 has accordingly been canceled.

Dependent claim 18, which depends from claim 14, was amended to add blade after "pivotal" to clarify the indefiniteness rejection thereof as suggested by the Examiner. Applicant submits that such amendment does not introduce new matter and entry thereof is respectfully requested.

Since dependent claims 16-23 further define the invention as set forth in amended independent claim 14, and include the limitations thereof, dependent claims 16-23 are allowable for at least the same reasons. Applicant respectfully request the entry thereof.

Applicant respectfully submits that new claims 60-65 are allowable. Such claims are the result of rewriting objected claims 15, 17, 18 & 20-23 in independent form including all of the

limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, as the office action on page 3, second paragraph from the bottom states would be allowable.

New claim 60 is a combination of claim 14 and dependent claims 16 & 17.

New claim 61 is a combination of claim 14 and dependent claims 16, 17 & 18.

New claim 62 is a combination of claim 14 and dependent claims 16, 19 & 20.

New claim 63 is a combination of claim 14 and dependent claims 16, 19 & 21.

New claim 64 is a combination of claim 14 and dependent claims 16, 19, 21 & 22.

New claim 65 is a combination of independent claim 14 and dependent claims 16, 19 & 23.

Applicant respectfully submits new dependent claims 66 & 67 are allowable since they depend from allowed claim 36 and incorporate the limitations thereof, and entry thereof is requested.

D. Conclusion

Based on the above, applicant respectfully requests the Examiner's allowance of claims 14, 16-23 & 60-67 as presented herein.

In the event there remains any impediment to allowance of the claims which could be clarified in a telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to initiate such an interview with the undersigned.

Dated this 13 day of November 2000.



Respectfully submitted,

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